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**Butterfield, K. L.** *Chapters in Rural Progress.* Pp. ix, 251. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1908.

In the words of the author, "the rural problem is the problem of those who farm. It is the problem of the man behind the plow . . . a man very much like other people. Farmer nature is usually a fair specimen of human nature." Nevertheless, the farmer's physical and social isolation gives to the rural social problem a unique character. "Farm life makes a strong individual; it is a serious menace to the achievement of class power." Since "present day living is so distinctively social, progress is so dependent upon social agencies, social development is so rapid, that if the farmer is to keep his status he must be fully in step with the rest of the army."

In the seventeen discourses contained in this volume, the author points out the necessity of the farmer's acquiring the social point of view before he can be ready to accept any scheme for his industrial, intellectual and social uplift. The first and greatest needs of the farmer are found to be: (1) *Completer organization*; co-operation is a difficult lesson for the farmer; (2) *Better education*. As president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, the author is particularly qualified to speak *ex cathedra* on this matter. He says that the country is especially lacking in and greatly in need of good high schools, of technical training, too, in spite of forty years of agricultural colleges. "Neither in primary grades, in high schools, nor in special schools, is there an adequate amount of study of the principles of agriculture—principles which an age of science demands must be mastered if the independent farmer is to be a success." (3) *Quicker communication*. Of course, the progress made along this line in the interest of the farmer has been so phenomenal in the past few years—with free rural delivery and a metropolitan daily at his breakfast table, a telephone at hand, improved roads and electric trains—we cannot help asking the author if he feels that the farmer has kept pace with this particular opportunity?

We are glad to turn to the chapter that contains a thrilling story of the farmer's co-operation with the school teachers of Michigan in building up in the "Hesperia movement" a common platform for the discussion of their mutual interests. The last chapter of the book contains the author's plan for the solution of the rural problem. His idea is to federate the forces that are already operating. These forces are, assuming the home life, the church, the school and the farmers' organizations. Each of these institutions is as important, as necessary as the other, and with the agricultural college in each state taking the lead in the work of federation, the author not only feels assured of success, but also gives instances of results that have already been obtained.

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*Cambridge Modern History.* Volume V. *The Age of Louis XIV.* Pp. xxxii, 971. Price, \$4.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1908.

The title of this volume, "The Age of Louis XIV," has become a traditional  
(728)

phrase applied to the period corresponding closely in point of time with the reign of the *Grand Monarch*. Not so much because Louis XIV dominated and directed the activities of the period, as did Napoleon later, but because he was the most conspicuous character of the half century following the death of Mazarin, and carried to its highest development the type of personal government and administration so conspicuously the most striking characteristic of the age. To the establishment and maintenance of this system the monarchs of the latter half of the seventeenth and the early part of the eighteenth century directed all their energy and resources. Both in the domestic and foreign affairs of Europe, this period takes its tone from Versailles; everywhere there is the conscious imitation of the court and politics of the *Roi Soleil*, and this very properly receives recognition in the title of the volume before us. It is well that this is so, for the fact is rather conspicuous by the lack of recognition it receives in the contents. Of the space allotted to the different countries, France gets 91 pages, Great Britain 247, Eastern Europe 208. From the point of view of the contents it would have been wiser to have followed the original announcement and adhered to the title *Bourbons and Stuarts*. Nor can it be said in extenuation of the disproportionate emphasis upon British history that this subject received rather scanty consideration in the two preceding volumes.

Looking at the work as a whole, this volume of the Cambridge Modern History illustrates to an unusual degree both the evils and the advantages of the co-operative method of writing history. It lacks continuity and that sustained interest which attracts the average reader. Much of it is by nature too repellent in form and manner; detail upon detail with no attempt at generalization or interpretation. Nor does it satisfy the scholar and the specialist who invariably want greater detail and more documentation. Were this an historical journal, it would be interesting to make a comparison between this volume, and the volumes relating to Louis XIV, in the *Histoire de France*, by M. Lavissee. The latter work devotes three volumes of about 500 pages each to the reign of Louis XIV. Instead of twenty-five authors the French volumes are the work of one, two, or, as in the case of the volume on the end of the reign which has just appeared, of four writers. But the editor, M. Lavissee and his few collaborators, are specialists in the history of the fields they treat, which is more than can be said of quite a few of the twenty-five contributors to the Cambridge volume. The result is not only a greater work, but also a much larger degree of uniformity in the presentation. In reading the French work, one is conscious of a unity of purpose and design which is conspicuous by its absence in the English volume.

On the other hand, this volume of the Cambridge History gives us a good deal of history of a very high order. There is an excellent chapter by Professor Firth on *The Stuart Restoration*, continued for the domestic affairs of England by Pollock on *The Policy of Charles II and James II*, and by Temperley of Peterhouse in two chapters, one on *The Revolution and its Settlement* and the other on *The Government under Queen Anne*. Professor Bury's contribution on Russia, tracing the history from the beginning at Moscow to the death of Theodore, and Bain's continuation of

the account to 1730 in the chapter on *Peter the Great and His People* deserve special notice. The senior editor, Mr. Ward, gives a good survey of Prussian history from the origin of the mark of Brandenburg to the death of Frederick I, the first king of Prussia. The treatment of the great elector's policies, with respect to cultivation, industry, immigration and toleration will be especially interesting to readers of *THE ANNALS*. Unfortunately, clear presentation of the larger economic problems of the period is not a conspicuous feature of the book. In the section on France one misses in Mr. Grant's account of the government of Louis XIV, the searching analysis found in the first volume of Lavissee's *History of Louis XIV* on the economic conditions that underlie the position of the Huguenots. In Mr. Hassall's account of the foreign policy, we are repelled by an array of dates; seventeen, occasionally even twenty, dates to a page approximates the achievement of the last edition of Ploetz's *Epitome*.

The bibliographies are uniform in form and matter with those of previous volumes of this series; there are valuable lists of primary and secondary sources for each chapter with date of editions and publisher, but there is no attempt at critical evolution.

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**Gray, B. Kirkman.** *Philanthropy and the State.* Pp. x, 339. Price, 7s., 6d. London: P. S. King & Son, 1908.

Few more readable volumes on social problems have come to the reviewer's notice than this, a posthumous work, edited by Miss A. L. Hutchins and the wife of the author. It is to be regretted that the author could not have lived to complete the work, for much of this book is fragmentary—a mere skeleton of the topics intended for further discussion.

A wide range of subjects is treated. Part I, called the "Transition in Thought," is an interesting resumé of the developments of the nineteenth century in the realm of philanthropy in England. The relation of the philanthropist to political measures; the new problems of city life; the administration of the poor law; the development of the charity organization society are typical chapter heads.

The keynote is the author's belief that, "philanthropy cannot remain a private concern"; that the "necessary provision for the weaker classes is a social concern . . . the state should consider the remedy (and in some form or other) should control its application." Few would to-day criticize such a position in the abstract, all depends on the measures proposed. The author sharply criticizes the English charity organization society for its failure to do constructive work. His criticism may or may not be well-taken, but such a charge could not justly be brought against the leading societies in this country.

In Part II, "The Intervention of The State," the author points out various activities undertaken by the state in England. The insane, prisoner's aid